drafting the Constitution Amendment Bill; and

(c) whether such a Bill is proposed to be introduced during the current Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) One of the items included in the agenda for the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council, held on January 15, 1997 was 'Emergency Provisions'. The opinion on the subject was divided. One viewpoint was that article 356 should be deleted from the Constitution of India. The other viewpoint was that this article be retained but should be suitably amended so as to provide adequate safeguards to prevent its misuse. Considering the difference between the two viewpoints that emerged during the discussions, the members were requested to communicate their views and suggestions in the matter, in writing, so that these could be compiled and placed before the next meeting of the Standing Committee. The matter will be discussed further by the Standing Committee.

Keeping in view the composition of the Standing Committee and of the Inter-State Council, it is not considered necessary to call for an all party meeting on the subject.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Telephone Exchanges with latest Technology in Gujarat

1169. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up new telephone exchanges with the latest technology for the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether manual telephone exchanges are still in existence in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(e) by when these exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of New Telephone Exchanges with latest Technology commissioned upto 21.2.97 during 96-97 likely to be commissioned upto March, 97 are geven in the statement (see below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

Statement

Details of new exchanges (with latest Technology) commissioned till 21.2.97 during 1996-97 and likely to be commissioned upto March '97 in Gujarat'

S. No.	Name of the exchange		Type & Capacity		Status
1.	CHHANI	(VADODARA)	PETEX-150	5K	Commissioned
2.	ATLADARA ROAD	(VADODARA)	PETEX-150	3K	-do-
3.	KARIMABAD	(SURAT)	PETEX-150	4K	-do-
4.	NARANPURA	(AHMEDABAD)	AT&T	10K	-do-
5.	RAIYA ROAD	(RAJKOT)	OCB-283	3K	-do-
6.	PARLE POINT	(SURAT)	PETEX-150	3K	To Be CommissioinedBy March, 97
7.	PARLE POINT	(SURAT)	PETEX-150	7K	-do-
8.	RAILWAYPURA	(AHMEDABAD)	HTL	7K	-do-
9.	RAILWAYPURA	AHMEDABAD)	HTL	3K	-do-
10.	ELLISBTRIDGE	(AHMEDABAD)	AT&T	10K	-do-
11.	SABARMATI	(AHMEDABAD)	AT&T	10K	-do-